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**Committee Assignments**

Agriculture (Vice Chair)  
Health & Long Term Care  
Judiciary

**Mt. Baker Theater**

The Mt. Baker Theater celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary last year. Although one-year late, the Legislature gave the theater a nice gift when we passed HB 1905 this session.

HB 1905 allows non-profit museums and performing arts associations to retain their property tax exemption when they rent their property to others.

The Mt. Baker theater will now be able to rent out its facilities for special events up to 25 times per year and NOT lose their non-profit property tax exemption. This is good for the theater and good for the Bellingham community

**NOTE:** Please feel free to share this update with your friends and neighbors. If you would like to be on the e-mail distribution list, contact this office with your name and address.

# Sen. Dale Brandland's

## UPDATE FROM OLYMPIA

4/17/03

Dear Friends,

I wrote to you last week to update you on the Senate Republican's budget proposal. Now, I'd like to update you on the Senate Republican's capital budget.

The capital budget is different than the state's operating budget. The capital budget is the state's "construction" budget. It allocates funds to maintain existing state-owned facilities including public schools, colleges and universities, parks and prisons.

The Senate Republican capital budget is \$2.7 billion. Half of this allocation comes from the issuing of bonds (our state has a bond rating among the top-10 in the nation).

The other half comes from "dedicated funding sources." These include the state's timber fund which helps pay for school construction; the "water quality account," which is funded by cigarette and alcohol taxes and goes to help fund waste water treatment facilities in the capital budget; and individual college and university accounts that the Legislature has control over for upkeep and expansion of these facilities.

Early on in the session, I asked the chair of the capital budget, Sen. Joe Zarelli, to include funds for the "Field of Dreams" project in Ferndale. At this point, \$800,000 has been allocated for the Tosco Sports Complex located at Pioneer Park.

As you may recall, the bond measure (Proposition No. 1, which needed 60% to pass) narrowly lost, 59.06% to 40.94%. The money will pay for four new softball fields; improvements to existing softball fields; soccer field improvements; outdoor basketball and volleyball courts; trails; parking and picnic areas.

Also included are approximately \$10.9 million for additional classrooms and labs at the Whatcom Community College and \$16.8 million for welding and auto collision classrooms at the Bellingham Technical College.

The capital budget allows us to invest in our future by maintaining environmental standards, retain and create construction jobs, and by putting more money into our K-12 and higher education facilities.

But we're not just building for the sake of building. When we decide to build a new tech center or skill center at the community college, we expect there to be a payoff down the road in a knowledgeable and skilled workforce. The capital budget has an impact on our economy now and in the future.

As we wind down to the end of the scheduled 105-day session, I want to again thank everyone who has visited and/or contacted my office. It has been a pleasure to hear from you. It truly is an honor and privilege to serve you in Olympia.

Dale E. Brandland, 42<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District